

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for customising the charging of subscribers in a telecommunications network, the method comprising the steps of:~~

maintaining subscriber information on at least one subscriber of a telecommunication network;

~~defining~~ maintaining at least two different tariff models, each model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call;

indicating in the subscriber information directly or indirectly which tariff model is to be used with this subscriber;

detecting that a subscriber is making a call; and

~~charging the subscriber~~ calculating a charge for the call according to the tariff scheme of the indicated tariff model for the subscriber.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the ~~step of~~ defining one tariff model to be a default model which is used when no other tariff model is indicated.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the telecommunications network ~~offering~~ is configured to offer a prepaid service to its subscribers and said at least one subscriber ~~being~~ is a prepaid subscriber.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

using at least two different types of vouchers for making deposits into subscribers prepaid accounts;

attaching one tariff model at least to each of said two different types of vouchers;

indicating in the subscriber information the type of voucher this subscriber is currently using; and

determining the tariff model to be used on the basis of the voucher this subscriber is currently using.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- defining in the subscriber information the voucher types allowed to this subscriber;
- checking from the subscriber information during depositing if the voucher is allowed to this subscriber; and
- if the voucher is an allowed one, continuing depositing;
- if the voucher is not an allowed one, terminating depositing.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- defining at least two different prepaid profiles, each profile defining at least the allowed voucher types;
- associating a subscriber's subscriber information with one profile;
- checking during depositing if the voucher is allowed to this subscriber from the profile definitions indicated in the subscriber information; and
- if the voucher is an allowed one, continuing depositing;
- if the voucher is not an allowed one, terminating depositing.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- defining at least two different subscriber profiles,
- attaching at least to each of said two different profiles one tariff model;
- indicating in the subscriber information the profile of the subscriber;
- determining the tariff model to be used on the basis of the subscriber's profile.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for customizing the charging of prepaid subscribers in a telecommunications network offering a prepaid service, the method comprising the steps of:~~

- using at least two different types of vouchers for making deposits into subscribers prepaid accounts, the subscribers being prepaid subscribers of a telecommunications network offering a prepaid service;

- ~~defining~~ maintaining at least two different tariff models, each model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call;

attaching at least to each of said two types of vouchers one tariff model;
detecting that a subscriber is making a call;
determining the tariff model to be used on the basis of the voucher ~~this~~ the subscriber
is currently using; and
charging the subscriber for the call by reducing a value of available credit on the
~~subscriber~~ the subscriber's account during the call according to the tariff scheme of the tariff
model.

9. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising:

at least one database having subscriber information on at least one subscriber;
~~wherein the system is arranged to~~ memory configured to maintain definitions of at
least two different kinds of tariff models, each tariff model containing a tariff scheme
defining how to charge a call; and
a network node configured to charge the subscriber according to the tariff scheme of
the tariff model indicated directly or indirectly in the subscriber information.

10. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ~~system is arranged~~
network node is further configured to use one tariff model, defined as a default tariff model,
when no other tariff model is indicated.

11. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the system is configured
to offer prepaid service to its subscribers and said at least one subscriber is a prepaid
subscriber.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the system is ~~arranged~~
configured to allow use of at least two different types of vouchers for depositing subscribers
prepaid accounts, and to maintain information on types of vouchers allowed to the subscriber
and to check during depositing if the voucher the subscriber is depositing is an allowed one.

13. (Currently Amended) A network element device comprising:

~~means controlling charging of a subscriber in a telecommunications system, the network element being arranged~~ configured to be in connection with ~~the~~ another network element device in a telecommunication system where subscriber information is maintained ~~in telecommunications system,~~

~~wherein the network element is arranged~~ means configured to determine ~~find out~~ which of ~~the~~ at least two different tariff models defined in the system is to be used with ~~this a~~ subscriber from the subscriber information indicating the subscriber's tariff model directly or indirectly, each tariff model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call, and

~~to~~ means for use using the tariff scheme of the indicated tariff model when charging the subscriber.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~database~~ data structure embodied in computer media executable by a processor, the data structure comprising: ~~subscriber information in a telecommunications system, wherein~~

~~the database also comprises~~ at least two different kinds of tariff models, each model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call, and

~~the~~ subscriber information ~~indicates~~ indicating directly or indirectly which tariff model is to be used with a subscriber.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~database~~ data structure as claimed in claim 14, wherein

the ~~database~~ data structure also comprises at least two different kinds of profile definitions to each of which one tariff model is attached, and

the subscriber information comprises information on which profile to use with the subscriber, ~~and~~

~~the database is arranged to deduce the tariff model of the subscriber from the profile.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~database~~ data structure as claimed in claim 14, wherein

~~the telecommunications system is a system offering a prepaid service to subscribers and the subscribers may deposit their prepaid accounts by means of vouchers,~~

the ~~database~~ data structure also comprises voucher information for at least two different types of vouchers by means of which subscribers may deposit their prepaid accounts, and

the subscriber information comprises information on the type of voucher the subscriber is currently using, ~~and~~

~~the database is arranged to deduce the tariff model of the subscriber from the voucher information on the basis of the voucher type the subscriber is currently using.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A database data structure embodied in computer media executable by a processor, the data structure comprising:

~~voucher information in a telecommunications system offering a prepaid service to subscribers, in which system the subscribers may deposit their prepaid accounts by means of vouchers,~~

~~wherein the database also comprises~~ at least two different kinds of tariff models, each model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call, and

voucher information comprising information on at least two different types of vouchers by means of which subscribers may deposit their prepaid accounts, the voucher information further ~~the voucher information comprises information on at least two different types of vouchers,~~ attaching each of said at least two different types of vouchers to one tariff model, and

~~the database is arranged to deduce~~ wherein the tariff model of a subscriber is deducible from the voucher information on the basis of the voucher type the subscriber is currently using.

18. (New) A processor comprising:

executable instructions configured to determine which tariff model amongst at least two different tariff models is to be used with a subscriber from subscriber information indicating the subscriber's tariff model directly or indirectly; and

executable instructions configured to use the tariff scheme of the indicated tariff model when charging the subscriber, each tariff model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call.

19. (New) A network element device comprising:

memory configured to comprise at least two different kinds of tariff models, each model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call, and subscriber information indicating directly or indirectly which tariff model is to be used with a subscriber, and

a processor configured to determine which one of the tariff is to be used with a subscriber from the subscriber information, to determine a tariff using time definitions of the indicated tariff model, and to use the tariff scheme of the indicated tariff model when charging the subscriber.

20. (New) The network element device as claimed in claim 19, wherein

the memory is further configured to comprise at least two different kinds of profile definitions to each of which one tariff model is attached, and, as subscriber information, further information on which profile to use with the subscriber, and

the processor is configured to deduce from the profile the tariff model of the subscriber.

21. (New) The network element device as claimed in claim 19, wherein

the memory is configured to further comprise voucher information for at least two different types of vouchers, and, as subscriber information on prepaid subscribers who may deposit their prepaid accounts by means of vouchers, information on the type of voucher a subscriber is currently using, and

the processor is configured to deduce the tariff model of a prepaid subscriber from the voucher information on the basis of the voucher type the prepaid subscriber is currently using.

22. (New) A network element device comprising:

memory configured to comprise at least two different kinds of tariff models, each model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call and voucher information comprising information on at least two different types of vouchers by means of which subscribers may deposit their prepaid accounts, the voucher information further attaching each of said at least two different types of vouchers to one tariff model, and

a processor configured to deduce a tariff model of a subscriber from the voucher information on the basis of a voucher type the subscriber is currently using.

23. (New) A processor comprising:

executable instructions configured to deduce from voucher information which tariff model amongst at least two different tariff models is to be used with a subscriber on the basis of a voucher type the subscriber is currently using, each tariff model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call and attaching each of said at least two different types of vouchers to one tariff model.

24. (New) A data structure embodied in computer media executable by a processor, the data structure comprising:

at least two different kinds of tariff models, each model containing a tariff scheme defining how to charge a call, a first of said at least two different tariff models containing a first tariff scheme and a second of said at least two different tariff models containing a second tariff scheme having a different time definition than the first tariff scheme, said time definitions being used when a tariff is determined.